

**House of Representatives
Appropriations
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 20-21	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations	TBA	Work Session
December 2-3	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations	TBA	Work Session

Work Group on K-12 Finance

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
April	All Day	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
May 12	Afternoon	Olympia or Seattle	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
June 7	Afternoon	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
July 12	Afternoon	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session
December	TBA	Olympia	Appropriations/ Education Work Group	K-12 Finance	Work Session

Project Title: K-12 Finance Study

Project Goal:

To review the current K-12 financing methodology and consider how education reform might influence new approaches to K-12 funding.

Project Description:

A joint work group will be appointed from the Appropriations and Education committees (eight each, equal party representation). The work group will develop a work plan to include the following tasks:

1. Review the current definition of basic education and the current funding system.
2. Review literature on approaches to finance reform and approaches taken in other states.
3. Examine various approaches to teacher compensation.
4. Look at data and studies on the correlation between student performance and funding.

Number & Type of Meetings: The work group will meet five times to establish the scope of the study, to review and direct staff work, and to approve the work product.

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Denise Graham, Suzi Morrissey

STAFF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project Title: Salmon Recovery Efforts

Project Goal:

Review salmon recovery programs and funding history.

Project Description:

This project will educate the committee on salmon recovery programs and funding history in preparation for the 2005-07 budget deliberations. This is a coordinated study between the Appropriations, Fisheries, Ecology & Parks, and Capital Budget Committees particularly in regard to the funding history. Other items include reviewing the extent to which a cohesive state strategy exists, whether performance measures exist and whether goals are identified and are being achieved, and to what extent spending is coordinated between different agencies and related issues.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 2004.

Staff Assigned: Charlie Gavigan, Jeff Olsen, Alicia Paatsch

Project Title: Child Welfare Program Funding History

Project Goal:

Provide committee with a recent history (four biennia) of funding decisions for child welfare programs.

Project Description:

During the 2004 session, the Legislature received the results of a federal audit on this state's child welfare programs. The audit pointed out many deficiencies in the state's program. The Legislature was presented with several options for child welfare program improvements. While portions of the proposal were funded, there was little time available to analyze the audit and potential budget and policy responses.

In preparation for further discussions of a potential response to the federal audit and possible child welfare program improvements, staff will compile a history of funding decisions for child welfare programs beginning in FY 1998.

The findings can be disseminated either by memo or as a committee presentation.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei, Cynthia Forland

Project Title: Evidence-based Medicine Study

Project Goal:

To encourage the use of evidence-based medicine in the delivery of state-funded medical care.

Project Description:

The cost of state-funded health care has grown dramatically in the last several biennia. In an effort to help control costs, the 2003 Legislature passed ESHB 1299 "an act relating to evidence-based health services purchasing." that directed state medical directors to "develop and implement uniform policies across state purchased health care programs that will ensure prudent, cost-effective health services purchasing".

Appropriations and Health Care committee staff will meet with the medical directors to determine their progress towards the directives in ESHB 1299, and explore other strategies which will encourage evidence-based procedures through state-funded health care programs.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Hanson/Dave Knutson/David Pringle

Project Title: Remedial Education

Project Goal:

Provide committee with the status of coordinating efforts between K-12 and higher education to minimize the necessity of remedial math courses in institutions of higher education.

Project Description:

During the 2004 session, the House Appropriations Committee discussed the costs and need for remedial classes in the higher education system. The concerns of the committee centered on the potential duplication of costs in the K-12 and higher education systems, when a student would take a course in the K-12 system and then repeat the course in college.

Sec. 602(15) of the budget bill (ESHB 2459) appropriated \$300,000 to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to "address the need to reduce remedial math courses taken at institutions of higher education."

The SBCTC will provide a progress report to the policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004, and a final report by December 1, 2005.

Staff will monitor the progress of the K-12/higher education work group in meeting the requirements of the budget proviso and inform the committee of the work taking place.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: December 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Susan Howson

Project Title: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program Expenditure History

Project Goal:

Provide the committee with a recent history (four biennia) of how TANF monies have been spent.

Project Description:

Back in the early 90s, welfare reform legislation included provisions that created a "box" around TANF appropriations that gave the executive branch broad discretion as to how the funds would be spent. Consequently, the Legislature has had virtually no role in allocating how TANF would be spent. The "box" tends to obscure how TANF monies are spent over time.

Legislation in the 2004 session proposed to eliminate the "box" and allow the Legislature to once again control how TANF monies are to be spent. The bill did not pass.

In order to provide more information to the Legislature on how TANF program money is spent inside the "box", staff will compile a history of how state and federal TANF monies have been spent, beginning in FY 1998.

The findings can be disseminated either by memo or as a committee presentation.

Number & Type of Meetings:

Completion Date: September 1, 2004

Staff Assigned: Amy Skei, Cynthia Forland